

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE

**Bicycle Advisory Committee
September 12, 2023**



NWTA: WHO WE ARE

NWTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit trail stewardship organization located in Portland.

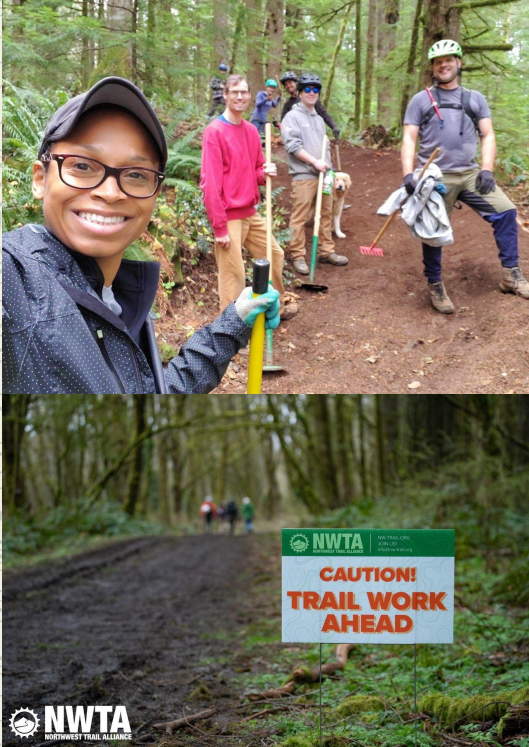
We sustainably steward trails within a roughly 60 mile radius: from the Oregon coast, into parts of Southern Washington's Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mt. St. Helens National Monument, to the Western foothills of Mount Hood National Forest, and in Portland City parks.

We provide educational trail stewardship and mountain bike programming for members and local communities to increase access to the outdoors through all types of off-road cycling.

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE AGENCY PARTNERS



NWTA BY THE NUMBERS



- Over 5,000 members
- Mostly Portland metropolitan area
- 10 trail systems and 4 bike parks
- Over 250 miles of trail
- 17,120 volunteer hours in 2022

Off-Road Cycling Master Plan (ORCMP)



BACKGROUND



What is it?

The Off-road Cycling Master Plan (ORCMP) identifies the best locations for expanded off-road cycling facilities (sustainable trail networks, skill parks and pump tracks) to provide close-to-home opportunities for recreation across Portland. These trails and parks provide places for healthy and safe outdoor recreation for children, families and people of all abilities and make access to green spaces easier and more equitable.

BACKGROUND



WHY WAS IT NEEDED?

- There had been analysis paralysis for years since some off-road cycling opportunities were introduced in the 1980's
- The sport of off-road cycling has increased in popularity
- Portland needs an off-road cycling system that sustainably provides more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities
- The system needed to be looked at comprehensively

BACKGROUND



PROCESS

- Commissioner Fritz initiated based on the need for a city wide plan to guide how and if to integrate biking on soft surface trails city wide
- Worked with the Mayor's office and others to highlight bike access deficiencies
- Council voted to fund the ORCMP; supported by Commissioner Fritz
- Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) was selected to lead the project: original idea was to examine locations beyond just Parks (i.e. PBOT and BES)
- Strong support for this across the city
- NWTA is a stakeholder who participated in the public process, including testimony in favor of the plan

BACKGROUND



PROCESS

- Extensive community engagement program to solicit comments during all phases of the plan development
- Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (BPS) convened a Project Advisory Committee with a diverse range of stakeholders that met 14 times between 2016 and 2017.
- Four (4) public open houses
- Online interactive map available for feedback on specific sites as well as an online comment form, and engaged the Community Engagement Liaison Program to solicit feedback from Russian, Vietnamese, and Latino communities.
- Staff reviewed 871 individual comments

WHAT THE ORCMP IS AND ISN'T



IT IS:

- A long-range, master planning document
- A set of recommendations for improvement and management of existing and future trails and facilities
- A comprehensive review to identify city-wide opportunities that build a connected network and serve all (previously efforts were only site-specific)

IT IS NOT:

- A site-specific review for any of the recommended locations
- A funding mechanism; no funding is attached through this plan to any trail or project within the document

A topographic map with intricate contour lines in a light gray color, set against a white background. The map is positioned on the right side of the slide, partially overlapping the text area.

LOOKING FORWARD

LOOKING FORWARD



Plan focuses on expanding cycling access; connecting places; safe spaces for kids to ride bikes; and helping Portland have more bike riders.

NWTA is an advocate for the implementation of the ORCMP to support:

- Fun, safe routes to schools
- Off-road commuter options
- Increased access to recreation
- More kids on bikes with access to nature
- Promoting the city's climate goals by being able to "ride to the ride"
- Trails built more sustainably

THANK YOU!

<https://www.portland.gov/parks/off-road-cycling-faq>

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